



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council



COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 18 February 2025, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

		PRESENT
Chairman	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
Councillors	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Irons	Yes
	Councillor Mrs C Baxter	Yes
	2 VACANT SEATS	
IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk	
	City Councillor A Ellis	
	1 member of the public	

1 12/25 **APOLOGIES:** NIL

2 13/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Councillor Mrs C Baxter declared an interest in item 7e (18/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association.
- b) **NOTE** decisions of requests for dispensation relating to the agenda: Ongoing dispensation to Councillor Mrs C Baxter for items relating to the allotments.

3 14/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: County Councillor Bentley had sent his apologies for the meeting along with an email report which the clerk had forwarded to all.
City Councillor Ellis reported on the outcome of the Local Plan committee meeting of 17 February at which Cllr Suckling had spoken on behalf of the council and several parish councillors had attended. City Councillors had voted not to approve the draft Local Plan to go to consultation at this stage because more work is needed on an infrastructure audit and delivery plan to enable an 'infrastructure first' approach in the district.
Concerns with regards to the 25 dwellings proposed for Kelvedon Road were raised and alternatives discussed. It was agreed with Cllr Ellis to postpone the Tiptree/Messing boundary meeting until he has met with planning officers at CCC and then can meet with parish councillors before a joint meeting with Tiptree.
- b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: NIL

4 15/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record

- a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 14 January 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs J Hughes, seconded Cllr Strudwick, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

5 16/25 **GOVERNANCE**

- a) Updated parish actions list and revised internal audit recommendations document **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- b) Parish Council timetable **RECEIVED**. Trees in Kelvedon Road to be included in next tree safety survey. Format of Annual Parish Meeting was discussed and Cllr Mrs Baxter agreed to explore options.
- c) Complaints policy, disciplinary and grievance process and training policy were **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter and all agreed. Clerk to make agreed changes to community engagement strategy.
- d) Orchard group terms of reference **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded Cllr Mrs Irons and all agreed.
- e) Transition to new website. Notice has been given to Narked Design and contract will end on 16 March. New website to be operational by then and include all of the necessary information to meet transparency code requirements. The new website can then evolve to include community information and other suggestions.

6 17/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:

- a) 242542 Messing Village Hall, CO5 9TR – installation of solar panels
<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=242542> – approved

7 18/25 PARISH MATTERS

- a) RCCE housing needs survey report **RECEIVED** and all councillors agreed final content. Clerk to contact RCCE and request invoice. Clerk to draft feedback wording for residents to explain not enough housing need identified at this stage and remind people of necessity to register with Colchester Housing to be consider for social or affordable housing.
- b) Peacocks in village – Messing Park confirmed peacocks from the Estate are not ringed and are being fed and monitored twice daily.
- c) Play area – first operational inspection had been completed and report would be available within 2 weeks.
- d) Orchard – pruning course was successful and had generated some income. Some tree work still to be completed but the height barrier will not need to be removed. Clerk to speak with Bob Fritz again to check his availability for carrying out the bank reduction work.
- e) Allotments – no interest yet in the vacant plot. Cllr Mrs Baxter to contact existing ploholders to advertise vacant plot and clerk to promote on noticeboards, via enews and school newsletter. Some of the pallets have now been removed. Ploholders to be asked to keep trimming the sycamore for maintenance following the tree work.
- f) Tree work – has been carried out at the allotments, playground and village green. Work to be completed at the orchard.
- g) Defibrillators – Cllr Suckling had sourced a new battery for the Messing defib which he has now fitted.
- h) Assets of community value – CCC requested more information to justify inclusion of the Old Crown in the asset list.
- i) Local Plan review – all councillors agreed to continue to be involved rather than allocate it to a particular individual. CALC has organised a meeting about the Local Plan to be held on 24 February. Clerk has circulated the meeting link to all.
- j) Meeting with Tiptree Parish Council – clerk to email Jonathan Greenwood to postpone meeting.

8 19/25 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

9 20/25 FINANCE

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Reserves figures will be reviewed after reserves policy is updated.
- c) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- d) Bank reconciliation for the month of January was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons
- e) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons
- f) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons

10 21/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS - matters for forthcoming agenda: village green grass cutting, Annual Parish Meeting, policies, potholes, devolution.

11 22/25 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 18 March 2025 commencing 19.30
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.34

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - FEB 2025

LGA 1972 s111	UTB	Internal transfer from reserves	£3,000.00
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (Feb)	£928.51
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£50.57
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (Feb)	£300.21
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses	£276.99
LGA 1972 s111	AB	Pruning course tuition	£170.00
PHA 1875 s164	DS	Mowing of Village Green 2024	£387.50
LGA 1972 s111	Sovereign	Playground operational inspections 5yr	£478.80